



November 2020

Platte County

Farm Service Agency:

1502 Progress Ct
Wheatland, WY 82201

Phone: 307-322-4050 x 2

Fax: 855-415-3444

Office Hours:

8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday

Office Personnel:

Pam Metz, CED
Dixie Mount, FLM
Heidi Platt, Loan Analyst
Kristine Crippen, PT
Bartley Schwegler, PT
Angela Utter, Farm Loan PT

County Committee:

Amy Miller, Chairperson
Del Tinsley, Vice-Chairperson
Chuck Maike II, Member

Next Committee Meeting:

November 19 @ 10:00 am

Do you get our monthly emails? You can stay up to date with all of the latest FSA program information by signing up for GovDelivery. Call our office and we will help you get signed up!

Platte County News

The Platte County Farm Service Agency Office is open for business **by appointment only**. Please call ahead and schedule a time for you to come into complete your applications.

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (**CFAP**) 2.0 is now available for farmers and ranchers to apply. CFAP 2.0 covers cattle, sheep, & hogs for livestock and alfalfa, wheat, corn, barley, sugar beats, sorghum, oats, millet and other commodities for planted crops. For more information visit farmers.gov/cfap.

Platte County has been approved for the Livestock Forage Program (**LFP**). LFP helps compensate for livestock grazing losses due to drought. LFP requires that you have livestock AND either own or lease pasture physically located in the disaster affected county. In order to prepare for signup, please start to gather your information now. Pasture leases and livestock inventory records are needed for program eligibility. More information can be found in the article later in this newsletter.

For the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (**NAP**) notices of loss need to be filed within 30 days of the loss being apparent. Also, to obtain coverage for 2021 you must apply for it by the crop sales date which is December 1, 2020 for fall seeded crops and pasture/perennial forage.

ARC/PLC election and enrollment for 2021 on farms with base acres begins October 13, 2020 and runs through March 15, 2020. If you have questions about whether you farm is enrolled or if you would like to change your election please contact the office.

With harvests finishing up, please remember we offer **Marketing Assistance Loans** on farm and warehouse stored wheat, corn and other covered commodities. Marketing Assistance Loans are 9-month loans at a low interest rate (currently 1.125% for November). These loans give a producer some cash flow while storing grain after harvest. Thus, allowing producers to potentially sell at better prices later in the marketing season.

Pam Metz, CED

Attention All Buyers of Agricultural Products

It is required that buyers of agricultural products check or register with the Secretary of State's Office to determine if there are liens against the Seller of the product. If a lien is found you are required to place the lien holders name on the check as well as that of the Seller. Ag Products include but are not limited to: livestock (including horses), crops used for feed (hay, silage, oats, etc.), machinery, equipment and all other crops. **Failure to place the lien holder's name on the check may result in civil legal action being taken against the Buyer of the product. Protect yourself as a Buyer!** You may contact the Secretary of State's Office at 1-307-777-7311.

USDA to Provide Additional Direct Assistance to Farmers and Ranchers Impacted by the Coronavirus

USDA announced up to an additional \$14 billion for agricultural producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19. Signup for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (**CFAP 2**) will begin September 21 and run through December 11, 2020.

Price Trigger Commodities

Price trigger commodities are major commodities that meet a minimum 5-percent price decline over a specified period. Eligible price trigger crops include barley, corn, sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers, upland cotton, and all classes of wheat. Payments will be based on 2020 planted acres of the crop, excluding prevented planting and experimental acres.

Eligible beef cattle, hogs and pigs, and lambs and sheep payments will be based on the maximum owned inventory of eligible livestock, excluding breeding stock, on a date selected by the producer, between Apr. 16, 2020, and Aug. 31, 2020.

Flat-rate Crops

Crops that either do not meet the 5-percent price decline trigger or do not have data available to calculate a price change will have payments calculated based on eligible 2020 acres multiplied by \$15 per acre. These crops include alfalfa, extra-long staple (ELS) cotton, oats, peanuts, rice, hemp, millet, mustard, safflower, sesame, triticale, rapeseed, and several others.

Sales Commodities

Sales commodities include specialty crops; aquaculture; nursery crops and floriculture; other commodities not included in the price trigger and flat-rate categories, including tobacco; goat milk; mink (including pelts); mohair; wool; and other livestock (excluding breeding stock) not included under the price trigger category that were grown for food, fiber, fur, or feathers.

Eligibility

There is a payment limitation of \$250,000 per person or entity for all commodities combined. Applicants who are corporations, limited liability companies, limited partnerships may qualify for additional payment limits when members actively provide personal labor or personal management for the farming operation. In addition, this special payment limitation provision has been expanded to include trusts and estates for both CFAP 1 and 2. Producers will also have to certify they meet the Adjusted Gross Income limitation of \$900,000 unless at least 75 percent or more of their income is derived from farming, ranching or forestry-related activities. Producers must also be in compliance with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions.

Disaster Assistance for 2020 Livestock Forage Losses

Producers in Platte County are eligible to apply for 2020 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on native and/or improved pasture due to D3, extreme drought intensity as per the U.S. Drought Monitor.

LFP provides compensation if you suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land. Eligible livestock are grazing animals that satisfy the majority of net energy requirement of nutrition via grazing of forage grasses or legumes.

Eligible Livestock must:

- * Have been owned, leased, purchased, entered into a contract to purchase, or held by a contract grower during the 60 days prior to the beginning date (**beginning date of drought is September 1, 2020 for Platte county**) of a qualifying drought or fire condition;
- * If sold due to drought, must have been sold during the 60 days prior to the beginning drought date;
- * Have been maintained for **commercial use** as part of a **farming operation** on the beginning date of the eligible drought or fire condition

You must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than **February 1, 2021**, for 2020 losses. Supporting documents must show evidence of loss and that grazing land or pastureland is owned or leased with risk in the pasture.

USDA Encourages You to Consider NAP Risk Protection Coverage Before Crop Sales Deadlines

The Farm Service Agency encourages you to examine available USDA crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, before the applicable crop sales deadline of **December 1**.

Federal crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available. You can determine if crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP by [visiting the RMA website](#).

NAP offers higher levels of coverage, from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Producers of organics and crops marketed directly to consumers also may exercise the "buy-up" option to obtain NAP coverage of 100 percent of the average market price at the coverage levels of between 50 and 65 percent of expected production. NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production.

For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is the lesser of \$325 per crop or \$825 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of \$1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Beginning, underserved and limited resource farmers are now eligible for free catastrophic level coverage.

Deadlines for coverage vary by state and crop. Contact your Platte County USDA Service Center at 307-322-4050 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at [USDA's online Agent Locator](#). You can use the [USDA Cost Estimator](#) to predict insurance premium costs.

Meet Our County Committee Candidates:

Del Tinsley - Del Tinsley is nominated in Platte county to serve as a COC member for a 3-year term. Del and his wife Sandy have lived in Platte county for many years and have raised 4 children. They currently reside at El Rancho and also own land in the Dwyer area. Del runs yearling cattle on grass. Previously Del was the owner/publisher of the Wyoming Livestock Roundup for 19 years and was part owner of the Livestock Auction in Torrington. Most recently Del served a term as State Director of the USDA-Rural Development. He served a term on the Wyoming Board of Agriculture and was President of the Wyoming Ag in the Classroom. Del is willing to serve the three year term if elected.

Dareth Smialek - Dareth Smialek is nominated in Platte county to serve as a COC member for a 3-year term. Dareth moved to Glendo in May 2019 where she & her family grow and producer irrigated hat & run simmental/angus cross cattle. Prior to moving to Wyoming, Dareth * her husband owned and operated a fifth generation what farm in Adams County, Colorado. Together with their three sons, they grew dryland wheat, corn and sunflowers and managed a small cow/calf operation. Along with the daily operations and performing the finances of the farm, Dareth became proficient in handling government programs provided through the local NRCS & FSA for not only their operation, but for the many landlords they served. She is excited to serve the three year term if elected.

COC elections are being held in Local Administrative Area 1 which is the north 1/3 of the county. If you receive a ballot, make sure to vote and have your voice heard. Ballots must be returned to the office/postmarked no later than December 7th.

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Upcoming Deadlines/Important Dates

- November 11 - Office closed Veterans Day
- November 16 - Acreage/crop reporting deadline for Apiculture (bees) and fall-seeded small grains
- November 26 - Office closed Thanksgiving
- December 1 - Deadline for applying for 2021 coverage of Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) crops
- December 7 - Final date for COC Election ballots to be postmarked or returned to the office
- December 11 - Final to apply for Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2.0
- December 25 - Office closed Christmas
- January 1 - Office closed New Year's Day
- February 1 - Final day to apply for the Livestock Forage Program

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).